

20 Feb 1986



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Steve Olsen Photos

Volunteers unload sandbags from pickup trucks along a street in Heber City, Wasatch County, Wednesday afternoon as swollen streams and irrigation ditches flooded parts of town.

Floods Send Wasatch County Reeling

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

HEBER CITY — Center Street in Heber became a river Wednesday as more than a hundred residents of the Wasatch County community attempted to divert floodwaters through the city's downtown area and away from homes.

Crews today were mopping up and surveying damage that included the flooding of several homes.

(See more stories and photos on Pages 3 and 27)

Elsewhere in Wasatch County, Utah Department of Transportation crews Wednesday and this morning battled to keep U.S. 40 in Daniels Canyon open. About five avalanches Wednesday cascaded across the highway, at

slides around 4:30 p.m. another slide swooped across the highway and the road was not reopened until 8:30 p.m. It has remained open since.

UDOT crews also continued to battle a mudslide in Wasatch County located just below Deer Creek dam that has closed Provo Canyon for periods of up to 15 minutes while UDOT workers remove the mud.

"The water is still running," said Wasatch County Sheriff's Dispatcher Kim Rice this morning. She said the worst of the flooding appears to be over for now. "It's snowing now and the colder weather seems to be helping." The dispatcher said flooding began to recede around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

She said it is still not known how much damage was caused by the flooding brought

and west of the Main Street business district.

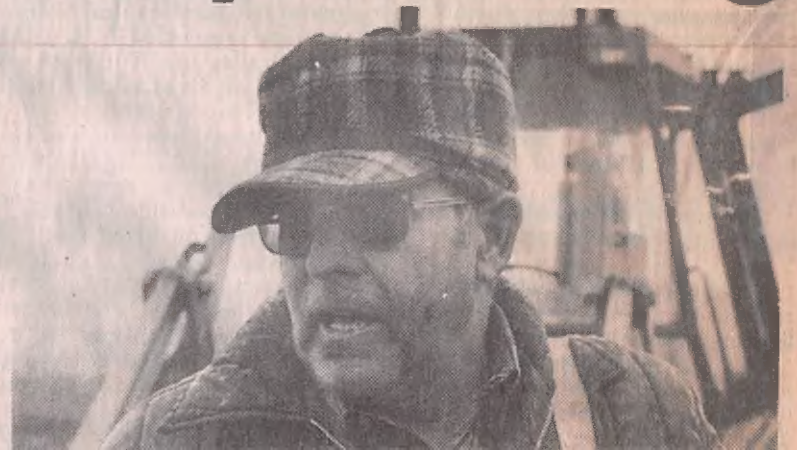
Rice said flooding Sunday seemed to hit the smaller communities of Daniels, Charleston and Wallsburg.

Floods Wednesday were accompanied by a citywide power failure, and schools were let out because there was no power and so students could help fill sandbags used in the battle against the flood.

Concern over flooding in Heber City began around 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, said Wasatch County Sheriff Mike Spanos.

"We've been going all day," said a tired Sheriff Spanos late Wednesday afternoon.

"It's flooded several homes, but we are not sure how many. I've never seen it this bad even in spring."



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In Salt Lake County, Wednesday's rains, which were accompanied by 70 mph winds, triggered a number of slides in Emigration Canyon and some homes were flooded by runoff. The canyon was closed to non-resident traffic.

For the second consecutive day, power outages occurred in south end of Cache County. About 2,000 residents were without power at least two hours, but the power was restored by evening.

Cache County Emergency Management Director Keith Nelson said the preliminary estimate of road damage in the unincorporated area was more than \$1 million.

Another inch of rain Wednesday prompted the Bear River District Health Department to issue a precautionary boil order.

Cache County commissioners declared the county a "disaster area" after assessing damages from heavy rains over the past few days.

County Emergency Management Director Brad Dee said Basin Water Conservancy District began releasing water from Pineview Reservoir Wednesday night.

Officials "tried to gauge it so as not to cause a major flood, but before we knew it, we had major flooding. Water was going in and out of homes all along the river," Dee said.

In Weber County, Emergency Services Director Brad Dee said 30 to 40 homes in Ogden Canyon were flooded when the Weber 40-foot crack near Peterson. Sheriff Bert Holbrook said one home downstream had been evacuated for the night.

Ken Adams estimated the flood-ing caused \$250,000 in damage to roads, culverts and bridges near the overflowing Deep, Smith and Hardscrabble creeks, tributaries of the Weber River.

weather was predicted for today. In Morgan County, creeks were receding but officials were watching an earthen dam with a 40-foot crack near Peterson. Sheriff Bert Holbrook said one home downstream had been evacuated for the night.

Morgan County Commissioner Ken Adams estimated the flood-ing caused \$250,000 in damage to roads, culverts and bridges near the overflowing Deep, Smith and Hardscrabble creeks, tributaries of the Weber River.

Lake snow-boarder was killed in an avalanche in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Morgan County, which declared an emergency Monday, was declared a disaster area Wednesday by Gov. Norm Bangerter. Wasatch, Weber and Cache counties declared emergencies Wednesday.

The rains were moving out of the state early today, and the National Weather Service canceled its flash flood warning Wednesday night. Drier, cooler

By BOB KUESTERMAN
Associated Press Writer
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Four counties have declared disaster areas following a week of rain, snow, slides and avalanches in which three people have died.

A 16-year-old skier, Paul Moscovitch of Wenham, Mass., was killed Wednesday when an avalanche swept down Sugarloaf Ridge at the Alta ski resort east of here. Earlier in the week, a 2-year-old Tremonton boy died when he fell in a canal and a Salt

4 Counties Declare Disasters; Alta Skier Dies

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"We had 28 homes flooded by Sunday, she said. Rice claimed that the worst flooding seemed to be Wednesday as floods moved through the residential downtown area east

in the last week we've had about 9 inches of rain and that's getting close to how much we usually get in a year I think," the sheriff said.

Wednesday between slides. In all 22 slides were detected in Daniels Canyon, but the majority stopped short of the road. Just as crews were finally through the last of three

Heber City official Bob Muir pitched in to help divert water.

